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Of words they seldom know more than the grammatical construction, unless they are born with a poetical genius, which is a rare *portion* amongst them.

As soon as any good appears to make a part of their *portion* of happiness, they begin to desire it.

When he considers the manifold temptations of poverty and riches, and how fatally it will affect his happiness to be overcome by them, he will join with Agur in petitioning God for the safer *portion* of a moderate convenience.

One or two faults are easily to be remedied with a very small *portion* of abilities.

Part of an inheritance given to a child; a fortune.

Leave to thy children tumult, strife and war, *Portions* of toil, and legacies of care.

A wife's fortune.

To *PORTION*. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To divide; to parcel.

The gods who *portion* out
The lots of princes as of private men,
Have put a bar between his hopes and empire.

Argos the feat of sovereign rule I chose,
Where my Ulysses and his race might reign,
And *portion* to his tribes the wide domain.

2. To endow with a fortune.

Him *portion'd* maids, apprentic'd orphans blest,
The young who labour, and the old who rest.

PORTIONER. *n. f.* [from *portion*.] One that divides.

PORTLISS. *n. f.* [from *portly*.] Dignity of mien; grandeur of demeanour.

Such pride is praise, such *portliness* is honour,
That boldness innocence bears in her eyes;
And her fair countenance like a goodly banner
Spreads in defiance of all enemies.

When substantialness combineth with delightfulness, fulness with fineness, seemliness with *portliness*, and curtness with flayedness, how can the language sound other than most full of sweetness?

PORTLY. *adj.* [from *port*.]

1. Grand of mien.

Rudely thou wrong'dst my dear heart's desire,
In finding fault with her too *portly* pride.

Your Argosies with *portly* sail,
Like signiors and rich burghers on the flood,
Or as it were the pageants of the sea,
Do overpeer the petty traffickers.

A *portly* prince, and goodly to the fight,
He seem'd a son of Anak for his height.

2. Bulky; swelling.

A goodly, *portly* man and a corpulent; of a cheerful look, a pleasing eye, and a most noble carriage.

Our house little deserves
The scourge of greatness to be used on it;
And that same greatness too, which our own hands
Have help'd to make so *portly*.

PORTMAN. *n. f.* [from *port* and *man*.] An inhabitant or burgess, as those of the cinque ports.

PORTMANTEAU. *n. f.* [from *portemanteau*. Fr.] A chest or bag in which cloaths are carried.

I desired him to carry one of my *portmanteaus*; but he laughed, and bid another do it.

PORTOISE. *n. f.* In sea language, a ship is said to ride a *portoise*, when she rides with her yards struck down to the deck.

PORTRAIT. *n. f.* [from *portrait*. Fr.] A picture drawn after the life.

As this idea of perfection is of little use in *portraits*, or the resemblances of particular persons, so neither is it in the characters of comedy and tragedy, which are always to be drawn with some specks of frailty, such as they have been described in history.

The figure of his body was strong, proportionable, beautiful; and were his picture well drawn, it must deserve the praise given to the *portraits* of Raphael.

To *PORTRAIT*. *v. a.* [from *portrait*. Fr. from the noun.] To draw; to portray. It is perhaps ill copied, and should be written in the following examples *portray*.

In most exquisite pictures, they blaze and *portray* not only the dainty lineaments or beauty, but also round about shadow the rude thickets and craggy cliffs.

I *portray* in Arthur before he was king, the image of a brave knight, perfected in the twelve private moral virtues.

PORTRAITURE. *n. f.* [from *portrait*. Fr. from *portray*.] Picture; painted resemblance.

By the image of my cause I see
The *portraiture* of his.

Let some strange mysterious dream,
Wave at his wings in airy stream
Of lively *portraiture* display'd,
Softly on my eye-lids laid.

Hercin was also the *portraiture* of a hart.

POS

This is the *portraiture* of our earth, drawn without flattery.

Her wry-mouth'd *portraiture*
Display'd the fates her confessors endure.

He delineates and gives us the *portraiture* of a perfect orator.

To *PORTRAY*. *v. a.* [from *portrait*. Fr.]

1. To paint; to describe by picture.

The Earl of Warwick's ragged staff is yet to be seen *portrayed* in many places of their church steeple.

Take a tile, and so *portray* upon it the city Jerusalem. *Be.*

Our Phenix queen was *portrayed* too bright,
Beauty alone could beauty take to right.

2. To adorn with pictures.

Various, with boastful argument *portray'd*.

PORTRESS. *n. f.* [from *porter*.] A female guardian of a gate.

PORTWIGLE. *n. f.* [from *port* and *wiggle*.] A female guardian of a gate.

The *portress* of hell-gate reply'd.

The shoes put on, our faithful *portress*
Admits us in to form the fortress;
While like a cat with walnuts frod,
Stumbling at ev'ry step she trod.

A tadpole or young frog not yet fully shaped.
That black and round substance began to grow oval, alter a while the head, the eyes, the tail to be discernible, and at last to become that which the ancients called *gyrinus*, we a *portwigle* or tadpole.

PORE. *adj.* [from *porus*. Fr. from *pore*.] Full of pores.

To the court arriv'd th' admiring son
Beholds the vaulted roofs of *porous* stone.

To *POSE*. *v. a.* [from *pose*.] To put to a stand or stop.

Learning was *pos'd*, philosophy was set,
Sophisters taken in a filier's net

How God's eternal son should be man's brother,
Poseth his proudest intellectual power.

As an evidence of human infirmities. I shall give the following instances of our intellectual blindness, not that I design to *pose* them with those common enigmas of magnetism.

Particularly in learning of languages, there is least occasion for *posing* of children.

2. To appose; to interrogate.

She in the presence of others *pos'd* him and sifted him, thereby to try whether he were indeed the very duke of York or no.

POSER. *n. f.* [from *pose*.] One that asketh questions to try capacities; an examiner.

He that questioneth much, shall learn much; but let his questions not be troublesome, for that is fit for a *poser*.

POSTED. *adj.* [from *positus*. Lat.] It has the appearance of a participle preter, but it has no verb. Placed; ranged.

That the principle that sets on work these organs is nothing else but the modification of matter, or the natural motion thereof thus, or thus *posited* or disposed, is most apparently false.

POSITION. *n. f.* [from *positio*. Fr. *positio*, Latin.]

1. State of being placed; situation.

Iron having stood long in a window, being thence taken, and by the help of a cork balanced in water, where it may have a free mobility, will bewray a kind of inquietude till it attain the former *position*.

They are the happiest regions for fruits, by the excellence of soil, the *position* of mountains, and the frequency of streams.

Since no one sees all, and we have different prospects of the same thing, according to our different *positions* to it, it is not incongruous to try whether another may not have notions that escaped him.

By varying the *position* of my eye, and moving it nearer to or farther from the direct beam of the sun's light, the colour of the sun's reflected light constantly varied upon the speculum as it did upon my eye.

We have a different prospect of the same thing, according to the different *position* of our understandings toward it.

Place ourselves in such a *position* toward the object, or place the object in such a *position* toward our eye, as may give us the clearest representation of it; for a different *position* greatly alters the appearance of bodies.

2. Principle laid down.

Of any offence or sin therein committed against God, with what confidence can ye accuse us, when your own *positions* are, that the things we observe should every one of them be dearer unto us than ten thousand lives.

Let not the proof of any *positions* depend on the *position* that follow, but always on those which go before.

3. Advancement of any principle.

A fallacious illation is to conclude from the *position* of the antecedent unto the *position* of the consequent, or the remotion of the consequent to the remotion of the antecedent.

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4. [In grammar.] The state of a vowel placed before two consonants, as *pompous*; or a double consonant, as *axile*.

POSITIONAL. *adj.* [from *position*.] Respecting position.

The leaves of cataputia or spurge plucked upwards or downwards, performing their operations by-purge or vomit; as old wives still do preach, is a strange conceit, ascribing unto plants *positional* operations.

POSITIVE. *adj.* [from *positivus*. Lat. *positif*, Fr.]

1. Not negative; capable of being affirmed; real; absolute.

The power or blossom is a *positive* good, although the remove of it, to give place to the fruit, be a comparative good.

Hardness carries somewhat more of *positive* in it than impenetrability, which is negative; and is perhaps more a consequence of solidity, than solidity itself.

Whatever doth or can exist, or be considered as one thing, is *positive*; and so not only simple ideas and substances, but modes also are *positive* beings, though the parts, of which they consist, are very often relative one to another.

2. Absolute; particular; direct; not implied.

As for *positive* words, that he would not bear arms against king Edward's son; though the words seem calm, yet it was a plain and direct over-ruling of the king's title.

3. Dogmatical; ready to lay down notions with confidence; stubborn in opinion.

I am sometimes doubting, when I might be *positive*, and sometimes confident out of season.

Some *positive* persisting fops we know,
That, if once wrong, will needs be always so;
But you, with pleasure own your errors past,
And make each day a critic on the last.

4. Settled by arbitrary appointment.

In laws, that which is natural, bindeth universally, that which is *positive*, not so.

Although no laws but *positive* be mutable, yet all are not mutable which be *positive*; *positive* laws are either permanent or else changeable, according as the matter itself is, concerning which they were made.

Laws are but *positive*; love's pow'r we see,
Is nature's sanction, and her first decree.

5. Having the power to enact any law.

Not to consent to the enacting of such a law, which has no view besides the general good, unless another law shall at the same time pass, with no other view but that of advancing the power of one party alone; what is this but to claim a *positive* voice, as well as a negative.

6. Certain; assured.

POSITIVELY. *adv.* [from *positive*.]

1. Absolutely; by way of direct position.

Give me some breath, some little pause,
Before I *positively* speak in this.

The good or evil, which is removed, may be esteemed good or evil comparatively, and not *positively* or simply.

2. Not negatively.

It is impossible that any successive duration should be actually and *positively* infinite, or have infinite successions already gone and past.

3. Certainly; without dubitation.

It was absolutely certain, that this part was *positively* yours, and could not possibly be written by any other.

4. Peremptorily; in strong terms.

I would ask any man, that has but once read the bible, whether the whole tenor of the divine law does not *positively* require humility and meekness to all men.

POSITIVENESS. *n. f.* [from *positive*.]

1. Actuality; not mere negation.

The *positiveness* of sins of commission lies both in the habitude of the will and in the executed act too; whereas the *positiveness* of sins of omission is in the habitude of the will only.

2. Peremptoriness; confidence.

This peremptoriness is of two sorts; the one a magisterialness in matters of opinion and speculation, the other a *positiveness* in relating matters of fact; in the one we impose upon men's understandings, in the other on their faith.

POSITIVITY. *n. f.* [from *positive*.] Peremptoriness; confidence. A low word.

Courage and *positivity* are never more necessary than on such an occasion; but it is good to join some argument with them of real and convincing force, and let it be strongly pronounced too.

POSITURE. *n. f.* [from *positura*. Lat.] The manner in which any thing is placed.

Supposing the *positure* of the party's hand who did throw the dice, and supposing all other things, which did concur to the production of that cast, to be the very same they were, there is no doubt but in this case the cast is necessary.

POSNET. *n. f.* [from *posnet*. Fr. *posnet*.] A little basin; a porringer; a skillet.

To make proof of the incorporation of silver and tin in equal quantity, and also whether it yield no foibles more than silver; and again whether it will endure the ordinary

POS

fire, which belongeth to chaffing-dishes, *posnets* and such other silver vessels.

POSSE. *n. f.* [Latin.] An armed power; from *posse* comitatus, the power of the shires. A low word.

The *posse* comitatus, the power of the whole county, is legally committed unto him.

As if the passion that rules, were the sheriff of the place, and came with all the *posse*, the understanding is seized.

To *POSSESS*. *v. a.* [from *possessus*. Lat. *posseder*, Fr.]

1. To have as an owner; to be master of; to enjoy or occupy actually.

She will not let instructions enter
Where folly now *possesses*?

Record a gift,
Here in the court, of all he dies *possess'd*,
Unto his son.

Sundry more gentlemen this little hundred *possesseth* and possessioneth.

2. To seize; to obtain.

The English marched towards the river Eske, intending to *possess* a hill called Under-Eske.

3. To give possession or command of any thing; to make master of. It has *of* before that which is possessed; sometimes anciently *with*.

Is he yet *possess'd*,
How much you would?

—Ay, ay, three thousand ducats.

This man, whom hand to hand I slew in fight,
May be *possessed* with some store of crowns.

This *possesses* us of the most valuable blessing of human life, friendship.

Seem I to thee sufficiently *possess'd*
Of happiness or not, who am alone

From all eternity?

I hope to *possess* chymists and corpularians of the advantages to each party, by confederacy between them.

The intent of this fable is to *possess* us of a just sense of the vanity of these craving appetites.

Whole houses, of their whole desires *possess'd*,
Are often ruin'd at their own request.

Of fortune's favour long *possess'd*,
He was with one fair daughter only blest.

We *possessed* ourselves of the kingdom of Naples, the duchy of Milan and the avenue of France in Italy.

Endowed with the greatest perfections of nature, and *possessed* of all the advantages of external condition, Solomon could not *possess* happiness.

4. To fill with something fixed.

It is of unspeakable advantage to *possess* our minds with an habitual good intention, and to aim all our thoughts, words and actions at some laudable end.

Those, under the great officers, know every little case that is before the great man, and if they are *possessed* with honest minds, will consider poverty as a recommendation.

5. To have power over, as an unclean spirit.

Beware what spirit rages in your breast;
For ten inspir'd, ten thousand are *possess'd*;
Inspir'd within, and yet *possess'd* without.

I think, that the man is *possessed*.

6. To affect by intestine power.

He's *possess'd* with greatness,
And speaks not to himself, but with a pride
That quarrels at self-breath.

Let not your ears despise my tongue,
Which shall *possess* them with the heaviest sound
That ever yet they heard.

Possest with rumours full of idle dreams,
Not knowing what they fear, but full of fear.

What fury, O son,
Possests thee, to bend that mortal dart
Against thy father's head?

With the rage of all their race *possess'd*,
Stung to the soul the brothers start from rest.

POSSESSION. *n. f.* [from *possessio*. Fr. *possessio*, Lat.]

1. The state of owning or having in one's own hands or power; property.

He shall inherit her, and his generation shall hold her in *possession*.

In *possession* such, not only of right,
I call you.

2. The thing possessed.

Do nothing to lose the best *possession* of life, that of honour and truth.

A man has no right over another's life, by his having a property in land and *possessions*.

To *POSSESS*. *v. a.* [from *possessio*. Fr. *possessio*, Lat.] To invest with property. Obsolete.

Sundry more gentlemen this little hundred *possessioneth* and *possessioneth*.

POSSESSOR. *n. f.* [from *possession*.] Master; one that has the power or property of any thing.

They were people, whom having been of old freemen and *possessors*, the Lacedemonians had conquered.

20 C